

What is claimed is:

1. A conveyor system comprising a frame, a conveyor bed mounted on the frame, an endless conveyor belt moving between upper and lower flight paths relative to said conveyor bed, and a belt drive unit including an enclosed housing
5 having an opening therein through which said belt passes and containing belt drive means and a plurality of belt pulleys engaged with said belt and said drive means for receiving said conveyor belt from one of said upper and lower flight paths, applying motive power to the belt and returning it to the other of said flight paths, and UV irradiation light source interposed in the path of travel of the belt through
10 said housing for disinfecting the belt and the interior of the housing as the belt passes therethrough.
2. A conveyor system as defined in Claim 1 wherein said housing has an access opening therein and a door for selectively opening and closing the housing.
3. A conveyor system as defined in Claim 2 including safety switch means
15 for deactivating the UV light source when said door is opened.
4. A conveyor system as defined in Claim 3 wherein said safety switch activates the UV light source when the door is closed.
5. A conveyor system as defined in Claim 4 wherein said safety switch activates the UV light source only when the door is closed and the drive unit is
20 operated.
6. A conveyor system as defined in Claim 3 wherein said drive unit is an electric motor and said housing includes a panel dividing the housing to a first

compartment containing said UV light source and a second compartment containing said motor.

7. A conveyor system as defined in Claim 3 wherein said UV light source includes a plurality of UV light bulbs.

5 8. A conveyor system as defined in Claim 7 wherein said conveyor belt is made of a flexible polymeric material generally cylindrical in cross section.

9. A conveyor system as defined in Claim 7 wherein said conveyor belt is formed of a pair of flexible polymeric material generally cylindrical in cross section.

10 10. A conveyor system comprising a frame, a conveyor bed on said frame defining a conveyor path, a pair of endless conveyor belts respectively movably mounted on said frame for movement along generally parallel paths of travel between upper and lower flight path portions relative to said conveyor bed and a conveyor drive path position remote from said conveyor path; and a belt drive unit
15 including an enclosed drive housing having an opening through which said belts pass to and from their upper and lower flight path portions to the conveyor drive path portion, belt drive means in said enclosure and located away from said upper and lower flight path portions, and a plurality of belt pulleys in said housing engaged with said belts and said drive means to guide the belts between said drive
20 means and said upper and lower flight paths along said conveyor drive path at an angle to said upper and lower flight paths while the drive means applies motive power to said belts, and at least one UV irradiation light source interposed adjacent said conveyor drive path portions of said conveyor belts for disinfecting the belts

and the interior of the housing as the belts pass through said conveyor drive path portions.

11. A conveyor system as defined in Claim 10 wherein said housing has an access opening therein and a door for selectively opening and closing the housing.

5 12. A conveyor system as defined in Claim 11 including safety switch means for deactivating the UV light source when said door is opened.

13. A conveyor system as defined in Claim 12 wherein said safety switch activates the UV light source when the door is closed.

14. A conveyor system as defined in Claim 13 wherein said safety switch
10 activates the UV light source only when the door is closed and the drive unit is operated.

15. A conveyor system as defined in Claim 11 wherein said drive unit is an electric motor and said housing includes a panel dividing the housing to a first compartment containing said UV light source and a second compartment
15 containing said motor.

16. A conveyor system as defined in Claim 15 wherein said UV light source includes a plurality of UV light bulbs.

17. A conveyor system as defined in Claim 1 wherein said conveyor belts are made of a flexible material generally cylindrical in cross section.

20 18. A conveyor system as defined in Claim 17 wherein said light sources are arranged in said housing such that they are diametrically opposed on opposite sides of the conveyor drive path portions of the conveyor belts, whereby all surfaces of such belts are irradiated by UV light.